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Administration
Facsimile 687-5856

Water Quality Planning
Water Pollution Control
Facsimile 687-4684

Mining Regulations & Reclamation
Facsimile 684-5259

State of Nevada
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Notice of Proposed Action

The Administrator, Division of Environmental Protection, Carson City, Nevada is issuing the following notice of proposed action under the Nevada Revised Statutes and the Clean Water Act. The Administrator has received an application for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, NV0023345, from the following applicant:

Metallic Ventures (U.S.), Inc.
5450 Riggins Court, Suite 2
Reno, Nevada 89502

The Esmeralda Project, formerly operated by Nevada Goldfields, Inc. and the Aurora Partnership and known during that time as the Aurora Project, is a gold mining and milling operation located near the historic mining town of Aurora in Mineral County. Dewatering is necessary to fully develop the mine and to maintain production. The Applicant proposes to discharge a daily maximum of 4.32 million gallons per day of treated water produced by mine dewatering wells, mine decline sumps, and the dewatering of the Humboldt Pit Lake to the East Walker River via the Rough Creek, Bodie Creek, and Days Creek, an ephemeral drainage. Treatment will consist of sediment removal through flocculent addition and retention in the three unlined settling ponds. Monitoring of the discharge will be conducted to ensure that surface and ground waters are not degraded as a result of the discharge.

On the basis of preliminary review of the requirements of the Nevada Revised Statutes, as amended, and implementing regulations, the Administrator proposes to issue Permit NV0023345 to discharge for a five (5) year period, subject to certain effluent limitations.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations by the Administrator regarding permit issuance, or request a hearing pursuant to the Nevada Administrative Code, Water Pollution Control, should submit their comments or request,

in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date of newspaper publication, hand delivered or postmarked no later than 5:00 P.M. on October 15, 2004, either in person or by mail to:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
333 West Nye Lane
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851

The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the person filing the request and the reasons why a hearing is warranted. All comments or objections received within the thirty (30) day period will be considered in the formulation of final determination(s) regarding the application. If written comments indicate a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit, the Administrator shall hold a public hearing. A public notice of such hearing will be issued not less than thirty (30) days prior to the hearing date.

If no hearing is held and the determinations of the Administrator are substantially changed from the tentative determinations, the Administrator will give public notice of the revised determinations. Additional comments and objections will be considered at that time.

The application, proposed permit, comments received, and other information are on file and may be copied or copies may be obtained by writing to the above address or by contacting Bruce [Holmgren](#), Bureau of Water Pollution Control at (775) 687-9423. The office facsimile number is (775) 687-4684. For further information, the fact sheet for this project can be viewed at the following website: <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm>.